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[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/vanwoerkom/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/vanwoerkom/)

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## **Senate Health Policy Committee adopts Sen. Van Woerkom's resolution on responsible antibiotics usage**

**Lansing** – Members of the Senate Committee on Health Policy unanimously adopted a resolution today encouraging the responsible use of antibiotics by doctors and patients.

State Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom (R-Norton Shores) sponsored the resolution after discussions with Mary Eley of Muskegon, executive director of the Michigan Antibiotic Resistance Reduction Coalition.

"Antibiotic resistance is a major public health concern," Van Woerkom said. "By working together with doctors, pharmacists, parents and educators we will be able to encourage the appropriate usage of antibiotics."

Resistance to antibiotics costs \$5 billion annually and more than half of all antibiotic prescriptions are written to treat viral infections, for which antibiotics are completely useless.

"We want to thank Senator Van Woerkom for introducing this resolution," Eley said. "He took the important first step in helping to bring our message to the citizens of the state of Michigan. We also would like to thank the Senate Health Policy Committee members for so unanimously supporting this important public health initiative."

Recognized by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the MARR is taking their award-winning "Antibiotics and You" program to elementary schools statewide.

According to the MARR, the rate of penicillin resistance increased by more than 300 percent and cefotaxime resistance increased by more than 1000 percent in just five years.

"These prescription drugs are wonderful tools against fighting bacterial infections," Van Woerkom said. "We need to use them wisely to ensure that they will continue to be useful tools."

The resolution now goes to the full Senate for consideration.

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**Photo Advisory: a photo of Sen. Van Woerkom may be found on the Senate photowire at:**  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/).